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Istook Announces Federal Funds for I-40

Washington, DC – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) announced Tuesday that \$5.3 million will be included in the FY 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill for the relocation of the Interstate 40 Crosstown Expressway in downtown Oklahoma City.

“The Crosstown Expressway carries traffic from across the country,” said Istook. **“It is a vital artery for Oklahoma as well as the entire federal highway system. This additional funding will help avoid any delays in the construction process.”**

In a letter last month fellow appropriations subcommittee chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY), Istook requested \$20 million for the project to be included in the Federal Highway Administration budget.

“We're grateful for Congressman Istook's leadership in helping with this crucial step in the process,” said ODOT Transportation Commission Chairman Herschal Crow.

“Congressman Istook has taken the initiative to stay up to date on the I-40 situation and pursue additional funding options. This new money will bring us closer to the total we need to construct this nationally significant project that will mean so much to Oklahoma.”

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation expects the total cost of the project to exceed \$300 million dollars. In 1998, the Oklahoma delegation helped secure \$103 million in federal funds for the project. Istook wrote to Chairman Rogers that because of the expense of the project, he expected that ODOT would require further funding in future years.